വിട്ട ശേഷം ഈ സഭയിൽ സന്നിഹിതരാവുക എന്നുള്ളത് ഇതുവരെ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല. അതിനാൽ ഞങ്ങൾ ഒരിക്കൽക്കൂടി അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു നന്ദിപറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

DEWAN BAHADUR RAGHAVIAH: Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, I owe it to the courtesy of your President that I am in your midst today. It was the thoughtful kindness of your President that prompted him to suggest to me that I should be present here this afternoon to witness the working of this Assembly with which I was so very closely associated for about five years. I cannot claim a very long connection with the Assembly nor can I take the credit of having established it—it belongs to a great man, Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao. But during the five years that I was here, it was my good fortune to serve His Highness the late Sri Mulam Tirunal and Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent and I take comfort in the thought that I served this Assembly, as I served Travancore, with the utmost disinterestedness and to the best of my ability. Times have progressed, ladies and gentlemen, and it is with no small pleasure that I see amongst us here ladies as members, or, if I may borrow for the moment an expression of the Round Table Conference, as 'full delegates' taking part in the deliberations of this most interesting institution and throwing light on many dark corners which men by themselves and unaided by the help of women cannot hope to penetrate. It is a sign of the times as I said before and it also shows the far-seeing statesmanship and the enlightened love of Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent who so ably governs this State. I do not wish to say anything more except to say that I have come back to my old love and am going to sit here and recall the days when you tried to heckle me, to pull my legs and when you tried to make things uncomfortable for me. I do not say that in any grudging spirit but that was the game which you played for me then and that was the game which I had to play and I trust that I played the game with sincereity, if not with ability. I thank you once more for the welcome you have extended to me.

On resumption of seat by Mr. Raghaviah, the Consideration of subjects was taken up. Mr. Raghaviah was present for about half an hour.

137. Needs of the Cardamom ryots.

MR. C. A. ABDUL RAHIM (*Peermade taluk*): said that all the major industries in the State, except the cardamom industry, were represented in the Legislative Council. The All-Travancore Cardamom Planters' Association was a large association with more than 200 members. To ventilate their grievances, a representative of the Association should be nominated to the Legislative Council or the Association should be given the privilege of electing a member.

For purposes of election to the Legislative Council, the taluks of Devicolam and Peermade in the Devicolam Division were added to the Minachil and Changanachery taluks, respectively, of the Kottayam Division. It was illogical to join a taluk in a Division with another

taluk in another Division. The Minachil and Changanacherry taluks should be formed into one constituency, leaving Devicolam and Peermade to be formed into another. An inhabitant of the Devicolam or Peermade taluk did not dare to stand as a candidate at the elections, as the number of voters in the other taluks was overwhelmingly larger.

As the owners of cardamom lands could not build houses within their estates, they lived on the adjoining grass lands and hills. Until some time ago, the cardamom ryots occupied as much land as they liked on payment of a low ground value fixed in accordance with the *puduval* rules. But recently the ground value was raised to Rs. 100 per acre. That order should be withdrawn and the ryots permitted to have lands registered in their names for building houses and stores, at a low rate of *tarvila* in accordance with the *puduval* rules.

Vandanmettu was a big *pakuthi* consisting of thirteen *tavalams*. There was no dispensary within a radius of fifteen miles. Persons who were taken ill were sent across the frontier to the dispensaries in the adjoining British District. But the journey across the hills was attended with dangers. A dispensary should therefore be opened at Vandanmettu and provided with all accessories.

There was not a single cart road in the cardamom area. The Kumili-Devicolam road, which was under construction, should be completed soon and opened to traffic.

The foot-paths connecting the various *tavalams* in the cardamom area were narrow and, in the rainy season, were overgrown with weeds and grass. All the foot-paths in the area should be widened and kept in good condition.

The shady trees standing on the estates hampered the growth of cardamom plants. For felling trees which had a girth of more than four feet, permission had to be obtained from the Forest Officers through the Revenue Department. That method of obtaining permission should be abolished. The power to grant permission to cut down the trees should rest solely with the Revenue or the Forest Department.

The Cardamom estates were periodically visited by pests. An agricultural expert should be deputed to Vandanmettu for finding out the ways and means of eradicating cardamom plant pests. A demonstration farm should also be established there to teach the ryots to get rid of the pests and to rear cardamom plants.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Abdul Rahim. Your first point was that Devicolam and Peermade should be combined into one constituency for the purpose of the Legislative Council elections. Though both Peermade and Devicolam are on the hills, still they are as a matter of fact very distant from each other and, at the time this grouping was effected, it was found that putting them together would be a very great hardship to the candidates for election to the Legislative Council. Still your representation will be considered when the question of the re-grouping of the constituencies is taken up for consideration.

Then you represented that cardamom planters are finding some difficulty in getting lands registered for house-sites. What is generally done is that the cardamom planter chooses a particular land and prays that that land may be registered in his name as it is necessary for the beneficial enjoyment of the adjacent holding. As a general rule, no permission is granted to individual planters to take possession of any lands they choose. If Government are satisfied that the land applied for is necessary for the beneficial enjoyment of the holding, then they generally register the land in the name of the applicant.

As regards the Kumili-Devicolam road, that road is divided into five sections and some work in respect of three of the sections has already been done. The work will be expedited; and work in regard to the other two will be taken up as soon as the first work is finished.

As regards the dual control over the trees in cardamom estates, a similar representation was made last year and I then gave an elaborate reply which you must be aware of. The difficulty that you represent is not very serious. It is the Land Revenue Department to which application is to be made; the Forest Department comes in only when the trees are about to be taken away. It is not a matter of much difficulty so far as the estates are concerned. It is not possible therefore to interfere with the control now exercised by the two departments on this subject.

The other representations made by you will be considered.

138. Encouragement of Malayalam.

MR. K. K. KOCHITTY VYDIAN (*Nominated*), who made his representation in Malayalam, thanked the Government for having nominated him to represent the Ganaka community in the Assembly.

It was the duty of those who respected the mother tongue and of the Government to work strenuously for the progress and popularity of the Malayalam language. The encouragement given to the language by the late Maha Rajas and members of the Royal family should be continued. For the quick despatch of public business, the Malayalam language should be accorded a more important place in the public institutions of the State.

139. Government and Malayalam.

MR. K. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Municipal Council, Haripad*), speaking in Malayalam, expressed his satisfaction that he could represent his subject before a Travancorean Dewan who could speak Malayalam. The member represented the same subject at the nineteenth session of the Assembly. The then President could not know Malayalam and so he did not grasp the full significance of his representation. The steps taken in the matter were not satisfactory or adequate to the need.

All civilised Governments encouraged the vernaculars. In the last fifty years, the Malayalam language had made considerable progress; but it could not be said that that progress was comparable to that made by other Indian languages.